

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 3 October 2017 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 2367 (2017), adopted on 14 July 2017, in which the Security Council “calls upon the Secretary-General to conduct, by 15 October 2017, an independent, external assessment of the structure and staffing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, related resources, priorities, and areas in which it has comparative advantages and synergies with other United Nations entities, in order to ensure that the Mission and United Nations country team are configured to most appropriately and efficiently fulfil mandated tasks”.

The assessment by the external review team is underway. However, the lead time required for identification and recruitment of the team members, together with other preparations, have significantly reduced the period of time available for the actual assessment and the completion of the report. During its initial consultations, prior to its current visit to Iraq, the external review team expressed concern that the deadline of 15 October 2017 would present a serious challenge for the conduct of the assessment of the Mission, given the complexity of the task. I share this concern and would therefore like to recommend an extension of the deadline for the completion of the mandated assessment to 15 November 2017.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António Guterres

